

New Quay (Cardiganshire) Urban District Council.

The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1925.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in Acres) ...	...	...	...	...	279
Population (Census 1921)...	...	...	...	...	1253
Population (estimated 1925)	...	...	...	...	1074
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)...	...	...	...	...	377
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921)	...	...	...	...	377
Rateable Value ...	...	...	...	£2465	
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ...	...	...	...	£10	

The Social conditions are Primitive : there are no Industries.

Vital Statistics.

Births : 10. 7 Males. 3 Females.

Birth-rate per 1000, 9·3, compared with 15·6 last year.
Average for England and Wales, 18·3.

Deaths : 18. 10 Males, 8 Females.

Death-rate per 1000 16·8, compared with 27·6 last year.

Average for England and Wales, 12·2

Average age at death was 65 years.

No woman died in, or in consequence of child-birth.

Death of infants under one year of age 1, giving a death-rate per 1000 of 1.

There were no deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea, Diphtheria, or Scarlet Fever.

				Males.	Females.
Deaths from Tuberculosis of Lungs	...	...	...	2	—
“ Cancer ...	...	...	...	—	1
“ Cerebral Hemorrhage	...	...	...	4	—
“ Heart Disease	...	...	...	—	2
“ Bronchitis	...	...	...	—	1
“ Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	1
“ Nephritis...	...	...	...	—	1

Poor-law Relief : There are 14 persons on the Parish.

The general health of the inhabitants was very good during the year.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or by the County Council :

1. Tuberculosis : The Welsh Memorial Hospitals.

2. Maternity : At Aberystwyth—23 miles away.

3. Children

4. Fevers

5. Smallpox

None. But an Isolation Hospital for Smallpox should be established in the County without delay.

In these days, when there are so many unvaccinated persons about, the danger of an epidemic is a very real one.

There is not a Hospital of any sort within the area, but there is an excellent General Hospital at Aberayron, seven miles away, and another at Aberystwyth, 23 miles away.

Neither of them receive any support from this Council, but the various places of worship subscribe to their Funds.

There is no Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants, or Homeless Children in the District.

Ambulance Facilities : (a) For Infectious Cases, none.

(b) For Non-infectious Cases and Accidents, there is one at Aberayron, towards the expenses of which this Council pays its quota.

Clinics and Treatment Centres : None.

The School Medical Officer comes to examine School Children, and the Tuberculosis Officer comes immediately when requested by the Local Doctors.

Venereal Diseases are treated at Swansea under the County Scheme.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

Whole Time : One Road-man ; one Dustman.

Part Time : One District Medical Officer ; one Sanitary Inspector, and one Surveyor.

Professional Nursing in the Home,

(a) General. We have one excellent Nurse.

(b) For infectious cases. None.

The Nurse is provided by the New Quay Nursing Association, and is mostly paid by them. The County Council also provides money for the services of the Nurse for inspection of school-children and babies. This Council pays nothing to the Funds.

Midwives.

There is one—the District Nurse. She is not provided by this Council.

Chemical Work.

The Water Supply (seven pumps) was submitted for Analysis in 1923, and the report is as follows :

FRANCIS STREET WELL.

Physical Characteristics :—Clear, no odour, very small amount of suspended matter, reaction alkaline.

Chemical Characteristics :—

Free or Saline Ammonia	...	0.001	part per 100,000
Albumenoid Ammonia	...	0.003	do. do.
Chlorides as Chlorine	...	2.26	do. do.
Nitrates as Nitrogen	...	0.98	do. do.
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours		0.012	do. do.
Solids Total	...	32.0	do. do.
Solids Fixed	...	20.0	do. do.
Hardness Total...	...	16.0	do. do.
Hardness Permanent	...	9.0	do. do.

This analysis furnishes no evidence of pollution.

PUBLIC WELL (TOWYN).

Physical Characteristics :—Clear, no odour, very small amount of suspended matter, reaction alkaline.

Chemical Characteristics:—

Free or Saline Ammonia	...	0.002	parts per 100,000
Albumenoid Ammonia	...	0.004	do. do.
Chlorides as Chlorine	...	5.28	do. do.
Nitrates as Nitrogen	...	0.62	do. do.
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours	...	0.054	do. do.
Solids Total	...	40.0	do. do.
Solids Fixed	...	32.5	do. do.
Hardness Total...	...	21.0	do. do.
Hardness Permanent	...	14.0	do. do.

This analysis furnishes evidence (e.g. the high figure for chlorides and nitrates) of remote organic contamination which has undergone almost complete mineralisation.

TOWYN BAKERY.

Physical Characteristics :—Clear, no suspended matter, no odour, reaction alkaline.

Chemical Characteristics:—

Free or Saline Ammonia	...	0.002	parts per 100,000
Albumenoid Ammonia	...	0.016	do. do.
Chlorides as Chlorine	...	3.5	do. do.
Nitrates as Nitrogen	...	0.09	do. do.
Solids Total	...	32.0	do. do.
Solids Fixed	...	18.0	do. do.
Hardness	...	Normal	

This analysis furnishes evidence of contamination of vegetable origin, which in itself is not harmful.

RECTORY WELL.

Physical Characteristics :—Good, clear. no suspended matter, no odour, reaction alkaline.

Chemical Characteristics:—

Free or Saline Ammonia	...	0.002	parts per 100,000
Albumenoid Ammonia	...	0.007	do. do.
Chlorides as Chlorine	...	2.8	do. do.
Nitrates as Nitrogen	...	0.06	do. do.
Total Solids	...	20.0	do. do.
Fixed Solids	...	16.0	do. do.
Hardness	...	Normal	

This water contains a small amount of contamination of vegetable origin.

Legislation in Force.—New Bye-laws with respect to Streets and Buildings were adapted.

The Clean Meat Regulations, as one would expect, are not a great success: that is due to the ambiguous Regulations, and not to the Local Authority.

COMPTON TANK.

Physical Characteristics :—Clear, no suspended matter, no odour, reaction alkaline.

Chemical Characteristics:—

Free or Saline Ammonia	...	0.002	parts per 100,000
Albumenoid Ammonia	...	0.008	do. do.
Chlorides as Chlorine	...	3.2	do. do.
Nitrates as Nitrogen	...	0.08	do. do.
Solids Total	...	28.0	do. do.
Solids Fixed	...	21.0	do. do.
Hardness	...	Normal	

This water contains a small amount of vegetable contamination.

ROCK STREET PUMP.

Physical Characteristics :— Good, clear, no odour, no suspended matter, reaction alkaline.

Chemical Characteristics:—

Free or Saline Ammonia	...	0.010	parts per 100,000
Albumenoid Ammonia	...	0.004	do. do.
Chlorides as Chlorine	...	7.1	do. do.
Nitrates as Nitrogen	...	0.4	do. do.
Solids Total	...	40.0	do. do.
Solids Fixed	...	24.0	do. do.
Hardness	...	Normal	
Lead	...	No trace	found

The high figure of chlorides, and the relatively high figures of the ammonias and nitrates are indicative of animal contamination, undergoing mineralisation. Bacteriological examination here would possibly be of value.

MARINE TERRACE SPOUTS.

Physical Characteristics :— Good, clear. no suspended matter, reaction alkaline, no odour.

Chemical Characteristics:—

Free or Saline Ammonia	...	0.002	parts per 100.000
Albumenoid Ammonia	...	0.002	do. do.
Chlorides as Chlorine	...	6.39	do. do.
Nitrates as Nitrogen	...	0.18	do. do.
Solids Total	...	28.0	do. do.
Solids Fixed	...	24.0	do. do.
Hardness	...	Normal	

The chlorides in this water are high, but the ammonias and nitrates are so low that previous animal contamination is unlikely, though not impossible. If the strata can be excluded as a source of the chlorides, then the suspicion of pollution is justified, and a careful local examination should be made. Bacteriological examination might be of value.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF THE SAMPLES OF WATER.

Rock Street Pump.—

Numbers of organisms developing per c.c. at 37°c=102	
" " " " 22°c=2200	

"Excretal" B.Coli recovered from 10 c.c. but not from the smaller amounts. Streptococci absent in 50 c.c.s. of water.

Marine Terrace Spouts.—

Numbers of organisms developing per c.c. at 37°c=120
 " " " " 22°c=4500

"Excretal" B.Coli recovered from 5c.c. water, but not from smaller amounts. Streptococci absent in 50c.c. water.

Both samples of water are evidently "polluted."



A plentiful supply of water can be had within six miles, and possibly nearer, but since the Great War no attempt has been made to secure it and proceed with a scheme that was agreed to in 1899. The plans and estimates were prepared during the years 1896—1899. In the latter year the Engineers and the Council signed an agreement and the Council wrote to the Engineers to say that they "had resolved to proceed without delay" with the scheme, which was to cost £3860.

Rivers and Streams.—There are no rivers, but a few small brooks run through the area, partly in culverts, and act as drains of sorts. When open, they also act as dumping grounds for rubbish and filth.

Closet Accommodation.—Pail Closets, 357. Water Closets, 9. Earth Closets, 6. Elson Closets, 5.

The Council School is provided with Earth Closets, and the Local Authority has provided Earth Closets for Women near the Doleu Beach. Owing to lack of a water supply and a sewage scheme it is impossible to have Water Closets in the great majority of the houses.

During August there is a certain amount of over-crowding; very few houses have more than one Pail Closet and are crammed with visitors; the bucket is overflowing before half the day is gone, and I have received numberless complaints from visitors of the awful mess and smell. Handling a pail bucket is a most unpleasant business and is done during the night. If people had a plentiful supply of earth for use in the closets, then emptying of the buckets would not be very objectionable and could be done, when necessary, during the day. Further, the contents of the pail should be buried in the earth, and not in the ash-pit in ashes. People playing games at the Memorial Hall Grounds can testify to the smell and flies from that cause.

Scavenging.—The Council-cart goes round twice a week, and oftener during August, collecting all household refuse and ashes, but not the contents of privies. In spite of this facility there are people in New Quay who are so shameless as to dump their filth on paths and the foreshore generally where it is both an eyesore and a nuisance. Very few householders have a proper dust-bin: they should provide themselves with a proper sanitary dust-bin with a lid, with handles, and of a suitable size so that the dust-man can handle it as easily as possible. Most people leave their rubbish on the road in open tins or boxes, with the result that dogs and children often scatter the contents.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

JOHN JONES, SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

Number of Inspections of Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Number of Inspections of Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Number of Inspections of Workshops and Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Number of Inspection of Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Number of Inspections of Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of Houses visited upon notification of Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Number of Houses Disinfected after Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Houses Disinfected after Death from Tuberculosis Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

Notices under Public Health Acts.

Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Number of Informal Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Proceedings taken at Aberayron Petty Sessions in respect of a Nuisance, and a penalty of £1 and costs was imposed.	...	...	...	...	...	...

Slaughter Houses of the District.

Registered, 0. Licensed, 0.

New Buildings.

The following is a summary of the Plan of New Houses, &c., approved of by you, and of inspections of the new buildings made by the Inspector of Buildings during the year:—

Number of Plans of New Buildings approved of	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Plans of Alterations to Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Inspections of Damp Courses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Inspections of Concrete underneath floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Inspections of Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Inspections of Completion	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

Housing.

Number of New Houses completed during the year:—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses—Inspection:—

(1) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	10
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspections of District) Regulations, 1910	10
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
(4) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	1

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	1
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3. Action under Statutory Powers:—

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit—							
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied—	
(a) By Owners...	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0

C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909—

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	0
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made...	...	...	0
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling Houses having been rendered fit...	...	...	0
(4) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	0
(5) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	0

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1. *Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.*

Factories (Including Factory Laundries)...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	...	...	...	...	...	18
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' Premises)	...	...	...	...	...	0

2. *Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.*

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—

Want of cleanliness	...	...	...	...	...	0
Want of ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	0
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	0
Want of drainage of floors	...	...	...	...	...	0
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	0
Sanitary accommodation	{	insufficient	...	...	...	0
		unsuitable or defective	...	...	...	0
		not separate for sexes	...	...	...	0

Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts:—

Illegal occupation of underground Bakehouse	...	...	...	...	...	0
Other offences	...	...	...	...	...	0

Smoke Abatement.—No action taken.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Byelaws or Regulations.—There are no common lodging-houses or offensive trades.

Other Sanitary Conditions requiring notice.—The utterly insanitary condition of the place is year after year brought before you and the Ministry of Health. Neither Body takes the slightest notice and are either indifferent or incompetent to deal with the matter.

Schools.—There is one County Council School in the District. The sanitary condition is better since Earth Closets were installed. There is no drinking water on the premises available for the children. The School should be provided with a sufficient number of Germ-proof Filters to remedy this defect. There was no occasion to close the School during the year.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) *Milk Supply.*—The Milk is all produced and brought in from outside the area.

(b) *Meat.*—There are no Slaughter-houses in the District.

(c) *Other Foods.*—The sanitary condition of the Baking-houses is satisfactory, but retailers of all Food exposed for sale should keep the same protected from flies by means of muslin or otherwise, as it is well-known that flies are filthy things and are a common cause of diarrhoea and gastro-intestinal trouble and the death of many babies in the large towns.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Infectious Diseases generally.—During the years 1921—1925 inclusive, the following were notified:—Diphtheria, 20. Scarlet Fever, 10. Pneumonia, 4. Encephalitis Lethargica, 1.

Diphtheria Antitoxin was used freely, and swabs taken of patients and contacts.

The case of Encephalitis Lethargica recovered with no complications.

Isolation was enforced as much as was possible in small houses, and disinfection carried out in all cases.

The Schick and Dick Tests have not been tried, nor have any artificial methods of immunization against Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever been adopted.

There were no Vaccinations performed under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations 1917.

There are no facilities available in the District for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons or their belongings.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1925.—There were none.

Tuberculosis.—Particulars of New Cases and of Deaths from the Disease in the Area during 1925—none. The two cases who died were men, aged 47 and 65, natives of the place, but resident elsewhere and brought home to be buried.

No action was taken under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

There has been no case of Puerperal Fever, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Measles, Endemic Diarrhoea, Poliomyelitis, or other Infectious Disease, bar Whooping Cough, of parturient women, infants and young children.

Things in General.

The Village lends itself to natural drainage, being well placed on the side of two hills: this is fortunate, as it is the only drainage it gets.

There is no plan of the drains, which are mostly of the built up variety with rough internal surfaces, thus holding up suspended matter which often blocks the system. It is thus obvious that we depend on plenty of rain to keep the place clean and sweet. During every spell of dry weather the stench arising from the untrapped gullies, and some of the water courses is appalling.

The population is steadily declining.

This, in my opinion, is mostly due to the lack of an adequate water supply and sanitation: if and when we get these essential things, the population will go up again, and so will the rateable value; the town will take its proper place as the finest sea-side resort in Cardigan Bay and will prosper.

Another great defect is the lack of closet accommodation for men and women. Mixed crowds arrive by motor coaches during the summer from long distances, and are dumped near the Lion Garage. There are no Public Lavatories for them. The ordinary calls of nature have to be attended to, and it is the obvious duty of this Council to provide the necessary facilities for both sexes.

Another point is the general appearance of the place. We have a few open spaces which with very little trouble could be a pleasure to the eye and an asset to the town, but no attempt is made to beautify them, or even to keep them in decent order.

D. R. T. GRIFFITHS,
District Medical Officer of Health.